THE NOBLE BIRTH

And Gallant Atchievements

Of that Remarkable

OUTLAW Robin Hood

Together with a True Account of the many Merry and Extravagant Exploits he play'd, in 12 several Stories.

VIZ.

The Noble Parentage of *Robin Hood*.
Robin Hood's Delight.
Robin Hood and the Fifteen Forresters.
Robin Hood and the Tanner.
Robin Hood and the Butcher.
Robin Hood and the Begger.
Robin Hood and the Stranger.
Robin Hood and the Bishop.
Robin Hood and Queen *Catherine*.
Robin Hood and the Curtal Fryer.
Robin Hood and the Fisher-man.
Robin Hood's Chase.

Newly Collected into one Volume by an Ingenious Antiquary.

London, Printed by *A. P.* and *T. H.* for *T. Vere*, at the Sign of the *Angel* without *Newgate*. 1678.

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24th March 1857.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

The noble Parentage, and the Atchievements of *Robin Hood*.

ROBin Hood was descended of the Noble Family of the Earl of Huntington, and being out-lawed by Henry the Eight for many Extravagancies and Outrages he had committed, he did draw together a company of such bold and licentious persons as himself, who lived for the most part on Roberies committed in, or neer unto Sherwood Forrest in Nottinghamshire. He had these always ready at his command, so that if need did require, he at the winding of his horn would have fifty, or more of them in a readiness to assist him. He whom he most affected, by reason of his low stature, was called Little John, but not inferior to any of them in strength of body and stoutness of Spirit. He would not entertain any into his service, whom he had not first fought withal himself, and made sufficient tryal of his Courage and Dexterity how to use his weapons, which was the reason that oftentimes he came home so hurt, and beaten as he was, which was nevertheless no occasion of the diminution of his love to the person whom he fought with, for ever afterwards he would be the more familiar with him, and better respect him for it. Many Petitions were preferred to the King for a pardon for him, which the King (understanding of the many mad Pranks that he and his Associates played) would give no ear unto; but being attended with a considerable Guard, did make a Progress himself to find him out, and to bring him to condign punishment. At the last, by the means and mediation of Queen Katherine, the Kings wrath was qualified, and his pardon sealed, and he spent his old Age in peace, at a house of his own, not far from Nottingham, being generally beloved and reverenced of all. We shall here give you an account of the several Combats that he fought, & the many odd & merry marks he played, the one whereof by the Grangeness of it, will

add more relpect unto his story: and the other by their variety, will abundantly serve to give more delight unto the Reader.

Robin Hood's Delight: Or,

A Gallant Combate fought between *Robin Hood*, *Little John*, and *William Scarlock*, and three of the Keepers of the Kings Deer in the Forrest of *Sherwood* in *Nottinghamshire*.

ON a Midsummers day in the morning, Robin Hood being accompanied with Little John and Will Scarlock, did walk forth betimes, and wished that in the way they might meet with some adventure that might be worthy of their Valour: they had not walked long by the Forrest side, but behold three of the Keepers of the Kings Game appeared, with their Forrest-bills in their hands, and well appointed with Faucheons and Bucklers to defend themselves. Lo here (saith Robin *Hood*) according to our wish, we have met with our Mates, and before we part from them we will try what mettle they are made of. What *Robin Hood*, said one of the Keepers: I the same, reply'd *Robin*. Then have at you, said the Keepers: here are three of us, and three of you, we will single out our selves one to one; and hold *Robin*, I for my part, am resolved to have a bout with thee. Content, with all my heart, said *Robin Hood*, and Fortune shall determine who shall have the best, the 3 outlaws & the Keepers: with that they did lay down their coats, which were all of Lincoln Green, and fell to it for the space of two hours with their brown bills, in which hot Exercise, *Robin Hood*, Little *John*, and *Scarlock* had the better, and giving the Rangers leave to breath, demanded of them how they liked them: why? good stout blades i'faith, saith the Keeper that fought with Robin, we commend you but let us make tryal whether you are as good at your Sword and Bucklers as you have been at your Quarter-Staff? why, do you doubt of it, said *Robin Hood*? we shall satisfie you in that immediately. With that having laid down their Staves, and thrown off their Doublets, they fell to it pell mell, and dealt their blows unmercifully fore, which were carefully always defended with their Bucklers. At the last *Robin Hood* observing Little John and Will *Scarlock* begin to give ground, which they never did in all their lives before, he dissembled the danger, and calling out for a little

a little respite to breath, he said unto the Keepers, Good boys i'faith, and the best that ever *I* dealt withal; let me know your names, and for the time to come *I* shall give that respect unto you that belongs unto your Valour, Tush, said one of the Keepers, we lose time in asking after our Names, if thou wilt have any more to do with our hands, or with our Swords, we are for thee? *I* see that you are stout men, said Robin Hood, we will fight no more in this place, but come and go with me to *Nottingham*, (*I* have silver and gold enough about me) and there we will fight it out at the King's-head-Tavern with good Sack and Claret; and after we are weary, we will lay down our arms, and become Sworn Brothers to one another, for *I* love those men that will stand to it, and scorn to turn their backs for the proudest Tarmagant of them all. With all our hearts, jolly *Robin*, said the Keepers to him; So putting up their Swords, and on their Doublets, they went to Nottingham, where for three days space they followed the pipes of Sack, and buts of Claret without intermission, and drank themselves good Friends.

Robin Hood's Progress to *Nottingham*.

How being affronted with fifteen Forresters as he was going to a Match at shooting with his long Bow before the King, he killed the said fifteen Forresters.

THE Name of Robin Hood did now begin to grow famous up and down the Country; those who had occasion to go from one Market to another, were either afraid of him, and did forbear to go those ways where his haunts were, or else they were in fee with him, and every quarter did give him money, that with their Goods and Cattel they might pass by unmolested. This he conceived to be a secure and a thriving way to fill his pockets, wherefore he contracted with all the Graziers and rich Farmers thereabouts, who had rather to give him every quarter a certain sum of money, then to be liable to those thefts and dangers both by day and night, which before did too much afflict them. Robin Hood in the mean time living high, and being out of any fear of Hue and Cry, or Constables Warrants, would repair oftentimes to the Town of Nottingham, where

where he would constantly make himself full merry at the Kings-Head, and no Guest was more respected then himself. It so fell out, that the King lying at that time at a great Earls house not far from Nottingham, the Townsmen, and some other of the adjacent Countrey, did intend to delight his Majesty with the honest Exercise and Recreation of Archery. Thither was going many of the Rangers of Sherwood Forrest, and thither was going Robin hood himself, but so disguised, that it was not easie for any one to know him. The Forresters meeting of him, demanded of him whether he was going, he told them to the shooting Match, to which purpose he had taken his Bow of Ewe along with him. Thou shoot (said one of the Forresters) thou thite, alas young Boy, thou art not able to bend a bow of Ewe, much less to draw it being bent, thou shoot before the King. I will hold you twenty mark, said Robin hood, that I will shoot a good Buck one hundred Rod off, and kill him dead in the place. A hundred mark on that (said the Forresters.) Down with your dust, said Robin, and having told down the money, with which he did go always provided, he bended his Bow, and having drawn a broad Arrow up to the head of it, he did let it flye at a fat Buck one hundred Rod off and more; the Arrow entring in between the ribs of the Buck, made him give a jump from the ground, and fell down dead on the place, which Robin espying, the wager (said he) is mine, if it were for a thousand pound. It is none of thine, said the Forresters, and began to threaten him with violence, if he did not let the money alone, and get him suddenly gone. Robin hood smiling with indignation. I will go (saith he) but you shall stay till you are carried off the place on which you stand every mothers son of you. Saith that he did let flye at one of the Forresters, and then at another, and at another, and left not shooting his well levelled Arrows, until that fourteen of the fifteen Forresters lay dead on the plain, close unto the Buck: the fifteenth was making away with all the speed he could, but Robin sent a forked Arrow after him, which entring quite through his back and body, came out of his breast. Now to your tools, said Robin hood, you have found me to be an Archer, and taking up the money with him, he withdrew into the Forrest to avoid all farther danger that might ensue, and the spilling of more blood. In the mean time the Townsmen of Nottingham hearing that Robin hood was abroad,

and

and that many of the Forresters were slain, did go forth in great numbers, hoping that Robin Hood was either slain, or so hurt that they might now take him, and bring him to the King, but he having sent some of his stinging Arrows amongst them, they found to their costs by bleeding experience, that he was safe enough from being hurt or endangered: Wherefore having taken up the fifteen Forresters that he had slain, they brought them into Nottingham Town, where so many Graves being digged in the Church-yard, they were all buried by one another, and in death, as well as life, kept company together.

Robin Hood and the Tanner:
OR,
Robin Hood met with his Match.

Relating the great and fierce Combat between Arthur Bland a Tanner of Nottingham, and Robin Hood the great Archer of England.

AFter this so sad an Execution of so many of the Forresters, there was not any one so hardy as to question bold Robin concerning any feats of Archery, and to speak the truth, he did of himself forbear for the space of many years to come unto the merry Town of Nottingham, in regard that his slaughter of so many Forresters at once had made him terrible and odious to the Inhabitants thereabouts, but especially to the said Forresters Wives, who did curse him most extreamly. In Process of time, as he was walking one Summers morning in the Forrest of Sherwood, he observed a man strong of body and stern of aspect to come up unto him to give him an affront; wherewpon he commanded him to stand, and told him he believed he was some bold fellow that came to steal the Kings deer, and he being one of the Keepers, he must discharge his trust, and secure his person. The other, who was a Tanner in the Town of Nottingham, having a long staff on his shoulder, and knowing as well how to use it, as any he whatsoever, told him plainly that they must be more then two or three that must make him stand, and that he cared not a straw for his Sword, or for his Bow, or for his quiver of forked headed arrows, for he believed if he were well put to it, he could as soon shite as shoot. Robin hood being nothing discouraged,

couraged, desired him to speak cleanly, and give him better terms, or else he would thrash him into better manners. Thrash me (said Bland) marry gap with a winion! art thou such a goodly man, I care not a fig for thee. Why then thou shalt care for me, said Robin Hood, and unbuckling his belt, and laying down his bow and his arrows, he took up a staff of ground-ash, and would have Bland to measure the length of his staff with his, because he would have no foul play in the tryal of his manhood. But Bland replyed, I pass not for length, my staff is of good Oak, and eight foot and a half in length, although shorter then thine, thou shalt find it long enough to reach thy Coxcomb. At these words Robin Hood could no longer refrain, but making two or three fine flourishes over his head, he gave him such a remembrance on the top of his crown, that the blood trickled down upon his shoulders. But Arthur Bland did soon recover himself, and bidding Robin Hood look to himself, for he would be even with him; he came up with hand and foot; Robin Hood believing that he would be upon him with the fore-end of his staff, Bland suddenly drew back, and being very nimble at it, he gave Robin Hood so rude a blattation on the right side of his head with the other end of his staffe, that he not only stun'd him, but withal did break his head so pittifully, that the blood ran down amain. Robin Hood being not often used to behold such a sight, did lay at Bland with all the strength and art he had; and Bland was no ways wanting to defend himself, and to return blow for blow. Two hours together they were in this hot exercise, and about, and about they traversed their Ground, till the wood and their sides rang with the blows which they did give to one another. At the last Robin Hood desired him to hold his hand, and let the quarrel fall, for he found (he said) that nothing was to be gotten on either side but dry blows: he moreover assured him, that for the time to come he should be free of the Forrest. God a mercy for nothing (said Arthur Bland) I have not bought that Freedom of thee, I may thank my good staff for it, and the hand that governed it. Hereupon Robin Hood demanded of him of what Trade he was, and where he dwelt, to whom Bland made answer, I am a Tanner, and have wrought long in Nottingham, and if thou ever comest thither, I do swear unto thee that I will tan thy hide for nought. Wilt thou so, said Robin, and I will do as much for

ther,

thee; but if thou wilt forsake thy Tanners Trade, and live here in the Forrest with me, I dare assure thee thou shalt have store of gold and Silver, and want for nothing. Arthur Bland conceiving who it was, did say unto him; If thou art Robin Hood, as by thy manhood I believe thou art, here is my hand, that if thou wilt never part with me, I will never part with thee; but where is Little John? I would fain see him, for he is near of kin to me by my mothers side. Robin Hood no sooner heard him say so, but he blew his Horn, and presently afterwards they might discover Little John coming down the hill, who observing his Master to stand with his staff in his hand, asked him what the matter was? he told him that he had met with the Tanner of Nottingham, who had turned his hide to some tune: Marry, that is well done, said Little John, I will see if he can tan my hide also: Friend, look to your self, have at you, Whereupon Robin Hood cryed out, Hold thy hand, hold thy hand, he is thy friend and Brotherman, his name is Arthur a Bland. My Cousin Arthur, said Little John, how glad am I to see you, my good Cousin, and throwing down his Staff, he did run unto him, and did imbrace him in the closest arms of Love. After that Robin Hood took them both by the hand, and dancing about an old Oak-tree, with a song in their mouths, and mirth in their hearts, they expressed all the signs of undissembled affection to one another.

Robin Hood and the *Butcher*.

How *Robin Hood* bought of the Butcher his Mare, and the Meat with which he was laden, and how he circumvented the Sherriff of *Nottingham*, and deluded him of three hundred pound.

NOt long afterwards Robin Hood walking in the Forrest as it was his daily custome, observed a Butcher riding along the way, having good store of Meat on his Mares back, which he was to sell in the Market. Good morrow good fellow, said Robin to the Butcher: Good fellow, replyed the Butcher, Heavens keep me from Robin Good-fellow, for if I meet with him, I may chance to fall short of my journey, and my meat of the Market: I like thy company well, what hast thou to sell? said Robin Hood? Flesh, Master, said the

Butcher, with which I am going to Nottingham-Market, what is the price of thy flesh, said Robin hood, and of thy Mare that bears it tell me, for if thou will use me well, I will buy both. Four mark, said the Butcher, I cannot take any thing of it. Sit down then and tell the money, said Robin hood, I will try for once if I can thrive by being a Butcher. The money being told, Robin hood gets up on the Mare, and away he rides with his Meat to Nottingham-Market, where he made such good Pennyworths, that he had sold all his Meat by ten of the clock in the morn. He sold more Meat for one penny then others could do for five. The Butchers in the Market, that had their stands by him, said one to another, Certainly this mans Meat is nought and putrified, or else he hath stolen it. From whence comes he, saith another, I never did see him here before. What will I tell you by and by, said a third Butcher, and stepping to Robin hood, said unto him, Brother, thou art the freest Butcher that ever came to this Market, we be all of one Trade, come let us dine together. Nere will he be that will deny a Butcher so fair an invitation, said Robin Hood, and going with him to the Inn, the Table was suddenly covered and furnished, and the best Man in the company being to say Grace; Robin Hood at the upper end of the Table did put off his Bonnet: God bless us all, (said he) and our Meat upon this place, a cup of Sack is good to nourish the blood, and so I end my Grace. Robin Hood was no sooner set, but he called for a Cup of Sack and thank to them all, desiring them to be merry, for if there were five pounds to pay, he would pay it every Farthing. Thou art the brabest blade, said the Butchers, that ever came to Nottingham-Market. Robin Hood still called for more wine, and the Cups trouled up and down the Table, insomuch that the Sheriff, who was newly alighted, and taken his Chamber in the Inn, understanding of it, said, He was some Prodigal that had sold his Land, and now would spend it all at once: which coming to Robin hood's ear; he after Dinner took the opportunity to speak unto him: And what said the Sheriff, Good Fellow thou hast made a good Market to day, hast thou any more Pence to sell? Yes, that I have, said Robin hood to Master Sheriff, I have two or three hundred, and a hundred Acres of good Land to keep them on, as ever the Crow flew over, which if you will buy of me, I will make you as good assurance of it, as ever my Father made

made me. The Sherriff being a covetous man, and perswading himself that he would make him Robin hood's pennyworths, commanded his horse to be brought forth, and taking some money with him for the purchase, he rode with Robin hood, who leading him into the Forrest for a mile or two outright. The Sherriff being laden with good store of Gold, and surprized with the melancholly of the place, and with himself at Nottingham again; and why so, said Robin hood, I tell thee plainly said the Sherriff, I do not like thy company. Nay said Robin hood, then I will provide you better. God keep me from Robin hood, for this is the haunt he useth. Robin hood hearing observed a herd of three hundred gallant Deer, lurking in the Forrest close by him, and demanded of the Sherriff how he liked those horned beasts, assuring him that they were the best which he could shew him: with that he blew his horn, whereupon Little Iohn with store more of his associates came presently in, to whom Robin hood imparted that he had brought with him the Sherriff of Nottingham to dine with him. He is welcome, said Little Iohn, I know he hath store of Gold, and will honestly pay for his Dinner. I, I, said Robin hood, never doubt it: and taking off the Sherriffs Portmantle, he took to himself the three hundred pound that was in it, then leading him back through the Forrest, he desired him to remember him kindly to his Wife, and so went laughing away.

Robin Hood and the Beggar.

Shewing how he fought with the Beggar, and changed cloaths with him: and how going afterwards a begging to *Nottingham*, he slayed three brothers who were all condemned for stealing the Kings Deer.

BUt Robin Hood took not any long delight in the Pare which he bought of the Butcher, but having now supplied himself with good store of Money which he had gotten by the Sherriff of Nottingham, he bought him a stout Gelding, and riding one Day on him towards Nottingham, it was his Fortune to meet with a poor Beggar, Robin Hood was of a frolick Spirit, and no accepter of Persons, but observing the Beggar to have several sorts

of bags which were fastned to his patched Coat, he did ride up to him, and giving him the time of the day, he demanded of him what Countryman he was? a Yorkshire-man, said the Beggar, and I would desire of you to give me something: Give thee, said Robin Hood: why I have nothing to give thee, I am a poor Ranger in the Forrest, and thou seemest to be a lusty Knave, shall I give thee a good bastinade over thy shoulders? Content, content, said the Beggar, I durst lay my Coat and all my Bags to a threaden Point thou wilt repent it: with that Robin Hood alighted, & the Beggar and he fell to it, he with his sword and buckler, and the beggar with his long Quarter-staff, who so well defended himself, that let Robin Hood do what he could, he could not come within the beggar, to stash him to a remembrance of his over-boldness; and nothing vexed him more, then to find that the beggars staff was as hard and as obdurate as iron it self, but so was not Robin Hoods head, for the beggar with all his force did let his Staff descend with such a side-blow, that Robin Hood for all his skill could not defend it, but the blood came trickling down his face, which turning Robin Hood's courage into revenge and fury, he let flye at him with his trusty Sword, and doubled blow on blow, but perceiving that the Beggar did hold him so hard to it, that one of his blows was but the fore-runner of another, and every blow to be almost the Postilion of Death, he cryed out to him to hold his Hand: That will I not do, said the beggar, unless thou wilt resign unto me thy Horse, and thy Sword, and thy Cloaths, with all the Money thou hast in thy Pockets: The change is uneven, said Robin Hood, but for once I am content: So putting on the Beggars Cloaths, the Beggar was the Gentleman, and Robin Hood the beggar, who entering into Nottingham-town with his Patched Coat and several Wallets, understood that three Brethren were that day to suffer at the Gallows, being condemned for killing the Kings Deer, he made no more ado but went directly to the Sheriffs House, where a young Gentleman seeing him to stand at the door, demanded of him what he would have? Robin Hood returned answer that he came to crave neither meat nor drink, but the lives of those three brothers who were condemned to dye. That cannot be, said the young Gentleman, for they are all this day to suffer according to Law, for stealing of the Kings Deer, and they are already conveyed out of

town, the place of execution, I will be there with them presently, said Robin Hood, and coming to the Gallows, he found many making great Lamentation for them: Robin Hood did Comfort them, and assured them they should not dye, and blowing his Horn, behold on a sudden a hundred brave Archers came unto him, by whose help having released the Prisoners, and killed the Hangman, and hurt many of the Sherriffs Officers, they took those who were condemned to dye for killing the Kings Deer along with them, who being very thankful for the preservation of their lives, became afterwards of the Yeomandry of Robin Hood.

Robin Hood Revived:

O R,

His gallant Combat with a Valiant young Gentleman, who proved afterwards to be his Kinsman.

EVery day almost did answer the expectation of Robin Hood, for every day did administer him one new adventure or another: he now did wish he had continued his Butchers Trade a little longer, for Provisions grew scarce, and he had not wherewith to maintain his Retinue or himself; Riding therefore forth to see what good Fortune he could be Master of, he met with a young Gentleman that had shot a Buck: Robin Hood was not far off when it was done, and commended him for his Archery, and offered him a place in his service, to be one of his Yeomen, which the young Gentleman disdaining, told him if he would not be gone, he would kick him out of that place: Robin Hood being unused to such affronts, assured him that he had men enough to take his part if he would but blow his Horn. Sound it and thou darest, said the Gentleman, I can draw out a good sword that shall cut thy throat and thy horn too: these rough words made Robin Hood so impatient, that he did bend his Bow, which the Gentleman observing, said unto him, I am as ready for that as you, but then one, if not both of us shall be surely slain, it were far better to try it out with our Swords and Bucklers: Content, said Robin Hood; we can no where find a more fitting place then under the Shadow of this Oak. They drew out their Swords, and to it they went; Robin Hood gave the Young

Gen-

Gentleman a cut on the right Elbow, and a little prick on his left shoulder, which the Gentleman returned with advantage, insomuch that both of them taking respite to breath a little, Robin hood demanded of him if he had never seen nor heard of him before: I know not who you are said the Gentleman, but my name is Gamwel, I was born in Maxfield, and for killing of my Fathers Steward, I am forced hither to seek out my Uncle, known to most men by the name of Robin Hood: why! I am the man, said Robin hood, and throwing down his Sword and Buckler, he made haste to imbrace him whom before he had so rashly wounded. Great was the love, and many the reciprocal indearments that were betwixt them, when in the Instant there stepped in Little Iohn, to whom Robin Hood having communicated what had passed, he gave his Kinsman a place next to Little Iohn, Little Iohn being always next unto himself. Not long afterwards he travelled into the North, where a bonny Scot offering him his service, he refused to entertain him, alledging that he was never true either to Father or Kinsman, much less would he prove true to him. At that time the battel grew hot betwixt the Scots and the English, and Robin hood turning to the English, Fight on, said he, my merry men all, our Cause is good, we shall not be beaten, and though I am compassed about, with my Sword I will cut my way through the midst of my enemies.

Robin Hood and the Bishop.

Shewing how he changed cloaths with an old Woman to escape from the Bishop, and afterwards how he robbed the Bishop of all his Gold, and made him sing Mass, &c.

Robin hood being returned with renown into Nottinghamshire, did walk forth one morning on foot, to see how affairs stood in the world, he had not gone far, but he beheld a Bishop riding towards London, and attended with one hundred followers. He perceived that the Bishop had notice of him, and being alone, and not knowing how to avoid him, he did steal into an old Womans House, and making his complaint unto her, the old woman asked him who he was, to whom he revealed that he was that famous Out-law, commonly called by the name of Robin hood: if thy name be so, said the old

old woman, I will do the best I can to provide for thee, for I do well remember it is not long since I received some courtesies from thee: the best way that I can advise thee to conceal thy self, is to put on my cloaths, and I will put on thine, with all my heart, said Robin hood: so putting on her Gray Coat, he gave her his Green one, with his Doublet and Breeches, and his Bow, and those few arrows he had. This was no sooner done, but the Bishops men, with their Swords drawn, entred into the house, did take the old woman, believing she had been Robin Hood, and did set her on a Milk-white Steed, and followed himself on a Dapple gray, being over-joyed with himself at the great purchase he had made. In the mean time Robin Hood being arrayed in the old womans Cloaths, with a Rock and Spindle in his hand, did address himself straight away unto his company, and Little Iohn beholding him coming over the Green, cryed out, O who is she that yonder is coming towards us, and looketh so like a witch, I will shoot her dead, and being dead I will nail her to the Earth with one of my broad Arrows: O hold thy hand, said Robin Hood, I am thy Master, and coming nearer he told them what had befallen at the old womans House, and to confirm what he said, they beheld the Bishop with a gallant train riding up that way. The Bishop espying a hundred brave Bow-men standing under a Tree in the way where he was to pass, demanded of his Prisoner who they were? Marry, replyed the old woman, I think it is Robin Hood with his company: why, who art thou then, said the Bishop? why, I am an old woman, said his Prisoner, thou proud blind Bishop, and if thou wilt not believe me, lift up my Leg and see. Then woe is me, said the Bishop. He had scarce bemoaned himself, but Robin Hood called to him, and bid him stay, and taking hold of his horse, he tyed the Bishop fast to the tree, and seizing on his sumpter-horse he took out of his Portmantle five hundred pound: which being done, Robin Hood smiling on Little Iohn, and all his company laughing at one another. Robin Hood bid Little Iohn give him his horse and let him go: by no means said the company, for he shall sing us a Mass before we let him loose: which being done to the Bishops great grief and shame, they set him on his horse again, with his face towards the tail, and bidding him to pray for Robin Hood, they suffered him to go forward on his journey.

Renowned

Renowned *Robin Hood*:

O R,

His famous Archery before Queen *Katherine*, for which at that time his pardon, and his Fellows, was obtained by the Queen.

ROBin Hood having on all hands supplyed himself with good store of gold, he sent thereof a considerable Present to Queen Katherine, with a Petition to mediate to his Majesty for a Pardon for himself and his Associates. The Queen accepted of both, and sent one of her Pages, Richard Patrington by name, to advise him to come to Court, and she would not fail to do the best she could to accomplish his request; great was the hast that Patrington made, being well mounted, he dispatched within the compass of two days and less, so long a journey. Being come to Nottingham he found that friendship, that on the next Morning he was brought to Robin Hood's place; where acquainting him with his message from the Queen, he assured her by him, that he would not fail to wait upon her Majesty, and withal sent her a small Present of his great Duty and Observance. Immediately he cloathed the chiefest of his Men in Lincoln-Green, with black Hats and white Feathers, all alike, and himself in Scarlet; and thus attended he came to London to the Queen, who said unto him, welcome Lockfly, the King is now gone into Finsbury-Field, to be present at a great Game of Shooting with the Long-Bow, and you come very seasonably unto it: do you go before, I will presently be there my self: when Robin Hood was come into Finsbury-fields, the King spake unto Tephus his Bow-bearer, and had him to measure out the Line, to know how long the Park should be; and the Queen not long afterwards being sat next unto him, the King asked of her for what wager they should shoot: the Queen made answer, the Wager is three hundred Tun of Rhenish Wine, and three hundred Tun of Beer, and three hundred of the fattest Bucks that run on Dallum Plains. Bestrew me, said the King, it is a Princely wager indeed; well, mark out the ground; this immediately was done, and it was in length full fifteen score; Clifton a famous Archer about the Town, boasted that he would hit the clout every time. And now the Kings Archers had shot three Goles, and

were

were three for none; but the Queen nothing discouraged, desired to know if any would be on her side, and Sir Richard Lee, who was descended of the Noble Family of the Gowers, standing close unto her, she encouraged him to lay one Wager, but he being unwilling to make so desperate adventure, she spake to the Bishop of Hereford, who told her kindly, that he would not bet one penny on her side. For said he, those that shoot on the Kings side are excellent and experienced Archers, and those that you have made choice of, we know not what they are, nor from whence they come; I durst wager, said the Bishop, all that I have about me against them. What is that, said Robin Hood? Fifteen score Nobles, said the Bishop, and that is almost one hundred pound: 'Tis right, said Robin Hood, I will lay with you, and taking his bag of money from his side, he threw it down upon the Green: William Scharlock being present, said, I will venture my life that I know before-hand who shall win this wager.

Now the Archers did begin to shoot again, and now those whom the Queen made choice of were equal with those of the Kings side, they were both three and three: Whereupon the King spake aloud to the Queen and said, The next three must pay for all. Robin Hood in the first place shot, and with such dexterity of Art, that his Arrow entred into the Clout, and almost touched the Black: He on the Kings side that did second him, did shoot well, and came very near unto the Clout: Then shot Little John, and hit the black, at which the Ladies laught aloud, being now almost sure that the Game would go on their side, which Midge the Millers Son confirmed; for I know not at that time whether I may most commend, his Art or his Fortune, but so it was that he cleft the very Pin in the middle of the black, and that with such a twang of his bow, that it seemed that that did proclaim the Victory before the Arrow came unto the Mark.

The Queen having thus won the Wager, she fell down on her knees before the King, and besought his Majesty that he would not be angry with any there present who were on her side; this the King (the day being designed to mirth) did condescend unto, although he did not well understand what she did mean by that Petition. This being granted, the Queen said aloud, Then welcome Robin Hood, and welcome Little John, welcome Midge the Millers Son, and welcome every one of Robin Hood's Company that is now in the Field. As

this Robin Hood, said the King, I thought he had been slain at the Pallace-gate in the North. The Bishop of Hereford turning to the King, said unto him, May it pleasure your Majesty, this bold Outlaw, *Robin Hood*, on Saturday was three weeks, took from me five hundred pound in Gold, and bound me fast to a Tree, and afterwards made me sing a Mass, and to those of his most unruly company that were with him. What if I did, said Robin hood, I was full glad of it, for I had not heard Mass before in many a year; and for recompence of it, behold Sir Bishop here is half your Gold. No no, said Little John, that must not be, for Master before we go, we are to give Gifts to the King and Queens Officers, and the Bishops Gold will serve for all.

The Famous battel betwixt *Robin Hood* and the Curtal Fryer, and how the Fryer let *Robin Hood* fall into the water, &c.

ROBin *Hood* being now grown most famous for his skill in Archery, and being high in the favour of Queen Katherine, did return with much honour into Nottinghamshire wheter being come, he instituted a day of mirth for himself, and all his Companions; and Wagers were laid amongst them, who should exceed at this Exercise, and who at that; some did contend who should jump farthest, some who should throw the bar, some who should be swiftest a foot in a Race five miles in length, others there were, with which Little John was most delighted, who did strive which of them should draw the strongest bow, and be the best Marksman: Let me see, said Little John, which of you can kill a Buck, and who can kill a Doe, and who is he can kill a Hart, being distant from it by the space of five hundred foot. With that Robin hood going before them, they went directly to the Forrest; where they found good store of Game feeding before them, William Scarlock that drew the strongest bow of them all, did kill a Buck, and Little John made choice of a barren fat Doe, and the well directed Arrow did enter into the very heart of it; and Midge the Millers Son did kill a Hart above five hundred foot distant from him. The Hart falling, Robin hood stroke him gently on his shoulder, and said unto him, God's blessing on thy heart, I will ride five hundred miles to find a match for thee. William Scharlock hearing

ring him speak those words smiled, and said unto him, Master, what needs that? here is a Curtal Fryer not far off, that for a hundred pound will shoot at what distance your self will propound, either with *Midge*, or with your self. An experienced man he is, and will draw a bow with great strength, he will shoot with your self, and with all the Men you have, one after another. Sayest thou so *Scarlock*, replyed Robin Hood, by the Grace of God I will neither eat nor drink till I see this Fryer thou dost speak of. And having prepared himself for his journey, he took Little John, and fifty of his best Archers with him, whom he bestowed in a convenient place, as he himself thought fitting. This being done, he run down into the Dale, where he found the Curtal Fryer walking by the water side. He no sooner espyed him, but presently he took unto him his broad Sword and Buckler, and put on his head a Steel Bonnet. The Fryer not knowing who he was, or for what intent he came, did presently arm himself to encounter with him. Robin hood, coming near unto him, alighted from his horse, which he tyed to a thorn that grew hard by, and looking wisely on the Fryer, said unto him, Carry me over the water thou Curtal Fryer, or else thy life lyes at the stake. The Fryer made no more ado, but took up Robin hood, and carried him on his back (the Story saith) deep water he did stride, he spake not so much as one word to him, but having carried him over, he gently laid him down on the side of the bank: which being done, the Fryer said to Robin hood, It is now my turn: Therefore carry me over the Water thou bold Fellow, or be sure I shall make thee to repent it. Robin hood to requite the courtesie, took the Fryer on his back, and not speaking the least word to him, carried him over the Water; and laid him gently down on the side of the bank; and turning to him, he spake thus unto him as at the first, and bad him carry him over the water once more, or he should answer it with the forfeit of his life. The Fryer in a trusting manner took him up, and spake not a word till he came in the midst of the Stream, where being up to the middle and higher, he did shake him from off his shoulders, and said unto him. Now thou bold Fellow, whether thou wilt sink or swim. Robin hood being soundly washed, sat up on his feet, and prostrating himself on the Water, did swim to a

bush of broom on the other side of the bank; the Fryer swimmed to a Willow-tree, which was not far from it: Robin Hood taking his bow in his hand, and one of his best arrows, did shoot at the Fryer, which the Fryer received in his buckler of Steel, and said unto him, shoot on, shoot on thou bould fellow, if thou shootest at me a whole Summers day, I will stand thy mark still. What will I try, said Robin Hood, and shot arrow after arrow at him, until he had not one arrow left in his Quiver. He then laid down his bow, and drew out his Sword, which but two days before had been the death of three men. Now hand to hand they meet with sword and buckler, the Steel buckler defends what soever blow is given: sometimes they make at the head, sometimes at the foot, sometimes at the side, sometimes they strike directly down, sometimes they traverse their blows, and come in fair and even with a full thrust at the body; and being ashamed that so long they exercised their unmatchable Valour, and cannot hurt one another, they multiply their blows, they hack, they hew, they slash, they foin. At last Robin Hood desired the Fryer to hold his hand, and to give him leave to blow his horn: thou wantest breath to sound it, said the Fryer, take then a little respite, for we have been five hours at it by Fountain Abby Clock. Robin Hood took his horn from his side, and having sounded it three times, behold where fifty lusty men, with their bended bows, came to his assistance. The Fryer wondring at it: Whose men, said he, be these? They are mine, said Robin Hood, what is that to thee? Faire Loon, said the Fryer, and making a little pause he desired Robin Hood to return him the same courtesie which he gave him. What is that, said Robin Hood? Thou sounded thy horn, said the Fryer, three times, let me now but whistle three times, I, with all my heart, said Robin Hood; I were to blame if I should deny thee that courtesie. With that the Fryer set his fist to his mouth, and whistled three times so shrilly, that the place echoed again with it, and behold three and fifty fell ban-dogs (their hairs rising on their backs, betokening their rage) were almost on the backs of Robin hood and his Companions. Here is for every one of thy men a Dog, said the Fryer: and two for thee: What is foul play, said Robin Hood. He had scarce spoken that word, but two dogs came upon him at once, one before, another behind him, who, although they could not touch his flesh, (his sword had

had made so swift a dispatch of them) yet they tore his Coat in two pieces. By this time his men had so laid about them, that the Dogs began to fye back, and their fury to languish into backing. Little John did so bestir himself, that the Curtal Fryer admiring at his courage and his nimbleness, did ask him who he was: He made him answer, I will tell thee truth, and will not lye; I am he who is called Little John, and do belong to *Robin Hood*, who hath fought with thee this day five hours together, and if thou will not submit unto him, this Arrow shall make thee. The Fryer perceibing how much he was over-powred, and that it was impossible for him to deal with so many at once, did come to composition with *Robin Hood*: The Articles of Agreement were these; That the Fryer should abandon *Fountain Dale*, and *Fountain Abby*, and live with *Robin Hood* at his place not far from *Nottingham*, where for saying of Mass, he should receive a Noble every Sunday throughout the year, and for saying of Mass on every Holyday, a new change of Garment. The Fryer contented with these Conditions, did seal to the Agreement. And thus by the courage of *Robin Hood* and his Yeomen, he was inforced at the last to submit, having for seven long years kept Fountain Dale, not all the power thereabouts being able to bring him on his knees.

The Noble Fisher-man:

OR,

Robin Hood's Preferment:

Shewing how he did win a Prize at Sea, and how he gave one half of it to his Dame, and the other to Charitable uses.

The Countreys and the Cities being full of the Exploits of Robin Hood and his Companions, he resolved with himself to make some adventure at Sea, and to try if he could be as famous at Sea, as he was at Land. Having therefore called all his Yeomen together, he did communicate unto them what was his resolution; but none of them would consent unto it, nor any of them would go with

es go along with him in such an expedition. Little Iohn in whom he much trusted, and who was partaker with him in all his Counsels, and in all his Dangers, was absolutely against it, and told him it was a madness in him to harbour any thought of such an adventure; wherefore Robin hood did go alone by himself to Scarborough, where being clad in a Seamans habit, he came to a Womans house by the Water-side, and desired entertainment. The good Woman seeing him a tall likely fellow, did ask him what his Name was, he made answer, Simon over the Lee. It is a good name, said she, and I hope thou wilt make a good Servant. If thou wilt be my man, I will give thee any wages that in reason thou wilt demand. I have a ship of my own, and as good as any that sails upon the Sea, neither thou nor it shall want for any accomodation. Robin hood being content to serve, took Covenant-money of her, and on the next morning, the Wind serving fair, the ship put forth to Sea, where Robin hood had not been long, but he fell very sick, the Sea and he could not agree, which made him in many loud Ejaculations to vomit forth the Chollar against it. Besides, he was so extreamly unserviceable, that the Master of the ship repented a thousand times that he ever took him along with him; and every one would call him the tall unwieldy Lubber. When others as they were a fishing would cast into the Sea their baited Hooks, he would throw in nothing but his bare Line, without any Hook or Bait at all, which amongst other things made him so ridiculous, that a thousand times he wished himself again either in Sherwood Forest, or in Plumpton Park. At the last the Master of the Ship espyed a Spanish Man of War to make up to him, wherefore he made away from her with all the speed he could, but being impossible to out-sail her, they yielded themselves lost, & all the Gods in the Ship. Robin hood, who called himself Simon over the Lee, seeing all men in despair, took courage to himself, and bad his Master but give him his Bow and his Arrows & he would deal well enough with them all. How you deal with them, said the Master, I think we all fare the worse in the Ship for such a Lubber as thou art. Robin grew angry at these words, nevertheless taking his Bow and Arrows in his hand, he went up to the Deck, and drawing his Arrows up to the very head, killed one Spaniard, and by and by another, and another. The Master of the Ship seeing the

Spaniards

Spaniards to hop so fast, encouraged his men, and boarded the ship where Robin Hood, *alias* Simon, behaved himself so manfully, that by his particular valour they possessed themselves of the ship; in which they found twelve thousand pound; half of which money Robin Hood allotted to his Dame and her Children; and the other half to his Companions in the ship. No, said the Master, it must not be so Simon, for you have won it with your own hands, and you shall be Master of it; why then, said Robin hood, it shall be as I have said, half of it shall go to my Dame, and her Children, and (since you refuse my bounty) the other half shall be for the building of an Alms-house, for the maintainance of the poor.

Robin Hood's Chase:

OR,

The merry Progress betwixt *Robin Hood* and King *Henry*.

ROBin Hood returning to Sherwood Forest, did commit in Yorkshire a very strange exploit; I cannot well tell whether he was overseen with Wine or Rage, but certainly it was one of the worst things that ever he did. It was brought to the Kings ear, who protested that such a fact should not escape unpunished: and because the Sheriffs had heretofore complained that they could not take him, he was resolved to ride in pursuit of him himself. Being therefore come with a Royal Retinue unto Nottingham, all the Country was laid for him; which *Robin* Hood understanding, he by the advice of Little John, did privately convey himself from Sherwood Forest into Yorkshire: there were none with him but Little John, his Cozen Gamwel, William Scarlock, and two or three more. The King being informed that he was escaped into Yorkshire, did follow him with all the speed that could be, and Hue and Cry were every where sent out to apprehend him. Which Robin Hood knowing, he fled out of Yorkshire to Newcastle, and from thence to Berwick. He had not continued there long, but

but tydings were brought that the King was gone in the pursuit of him, he was therefore constrained to go to Carlisle, where Little John being known, his stay was very short, and away he posted into Lancaster, and from thence to Chester, where being in great danger to be betrayed, he conceived with himself that the only way for his safety was to ride to London; where having procured admittance to the Queen, he told her that he understood that the King was in several places to speak with him, which caused him to come thither, to know what his Majesty would have with him. The Queen told him, she would do the best she could for him; and that the King, going away, told her, that he was taking a journey on purpose to seek him out. Having thus dispatched his business at Court, the King within few days afterwards came to it, where finding by the Queen that Robin Hood understanding his Majesty would speak with him, had been there to speak with him. He is a cunning Knave, said the King. The Queen falling down on her knees, besought him that (for his welcome to Court) he would for that once give her the life of that poor Outlaw; which being considered to, Robin Hood dismissed all his idle Companions, and betaking himself to a civil course of life, he did keep a gallant house, and had ever all the Country, the Love of the Rich, and the Prayers of the Poor.

The End.

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